

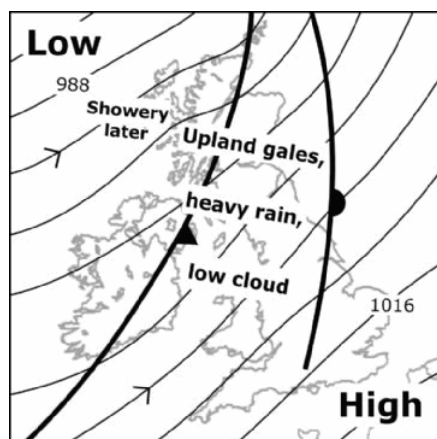
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.



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General Summary for Wednesday, 17 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 17 December, 2025

Extensive gales across the hills. Rain preceded by early snow on higher terrain in the Highlands, lifting briefly above freezing to high tops. Showery bursts follow into western Scotland, heavy and frequent with hail later. England & Wales sees rain much of the day, spreading eastward, heavy at times.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Upland gales, severe high tops. Snow/rain later showery.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 17 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	South-southwesterly 50 to 60mph, often 70mph higher Cairngorms, powerful gusts in places downslope to north/east. Starting to lessen a little in the afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Challenging conditions over the mountains, walking difficult in exposure, sudden buffeting to some mid-slopes; some improvement later in daytime.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain and some hill snow, mostly south Rain and initially snow above 700-900m from before dawn, turning to rain during morning toward higher slopes, most persistent southern Cairngorms NP, some heavy; less toward north. Later becoming showery. Some fresh snow cover on the Munros, beware icy surfaces.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive higher areas, lifting bases Shrouding most higher terrain all day, from mid-slopes up southern Cairngorms around to Drumochter. Mostly higher tops northward, but rarely above summits. Base tending to lift during afternoon, some breaks form.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast and murky south. Better visibility below cloud and if drier locally north.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0C rising to 3 or 4C in morning, then lowering again from dusk. Feeling like -12 to -15C directly in wind.
Freezing Level	Varying, 800-1000m around dawn, then rising above highest summits; then into night dropping to 1100-1200m.

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 18 December, 2025

South-southwesterly winds widely remain gale force over the mountains later this week and through into Saturday, severe upland gales for periods. More heavy rain for England and Wales on Thursday, further flooding expected; rain spreads north into Scotland, falling as snow on Munros. Showery by Friday, most frequent in western Scotland with hail, also snow over tops. Another belt of persistent rain likely arrives from the west into Saturday, snow only highest Scottish tops. A switch to east-southeasterly winds by Sunday into early next week, some residual rain and high-level snow, but a drier theme develops and favouring chillier conditions into the Christmas period.

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through Mountaineering Scotland with the support of sportscotland. Forecasts are issued daily by 16:30 and are kept under review and amended as necessary. However, expected conditions can still change after issue. © Copyright Mountain Weather Information Service, 2025.